

## Why do Christians seem to be apathetic about service?

When it comes to the work of the ministry and reaching out to the lost of this world it often seems like there are so very few people who are actually willing to be active in carrying out the work of ministry.

1. What are some of the things people could do?

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

2 Timothy 4:2-3

Acts 6:1

Ephesians 4:11-12

Hebrews 5:12-14

There are many things that we can do to serve. Some of the most obvious ones are to teach, preach, counsel, or serve in the aid of others in a fairly formal manner. The greatest thing we could do is to tell others about Jesus. We can also pray with and for others. We can help out the elderly or those less physically capable in meeting their everyday needs. We can help out the single parents in providing child care so that they can get errands done or just have some time to relax and prepare for the times ahead.

2. What may be identified as justification for NOT serving others?

Ephesians 4:8-15

1 Peter 3:16-17

1 Peter 3:12-15

Luke 10:38-42

The most common “reason” that people give is that they are not “gifted” in “that” area. Christ has gifted each of us and if we humbly submit to Him and exercise the gifts that we do recognize and stretch ourselves some more, we might surprise ourselves as to what we have been gifted to do. People also claim that they have too many problems in their lives to be able to serve others. They also feel that someone may ask a question that they do not have the answer to. In these cases, serve others from the midst of your troubles, others may see the service of the imperfect and be encouraged to serve others as well. We can also gather with others to study the scriptures and learn from one another how to answer some of the questions or comments that people raise. Some people are just too busy with their work and lives to do anything more. Perhaps it is a time to pursue being less busy in the things of this world and choose the better part – at the feet of Jesus.

3. What does God see as justified reasons for NOT serving others?

Luke 19:13

Titus 3:8-11

The only thing that should stop us from serving others is death. While there might be some with heretical ideas that will often take less of our time and effort we still love and serve others. Even the heretic, we do not completely abandon but we do make ourselves continually available since we know that we were very much like them at one point. Have patience and wait to see what the Lord will do.

4. What do we need to do?

2 Timothy 2:1-3

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1 John 1:1-4

John 13:34-35

**Luke 19:13**

**Mark 10:42-45**

God wants us to tell others what we have seen, heard, and know so that they might tell others as well. We have been called to truly show the love of Jesus Christ to others. Not only in word but also by our actions. We are to continually serve others as Christ showed us by example and to continue doing so until He brings us until Himself.